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Oberlin, OH 44074

Dr. Jane Henney  
Commissioner, U.S. FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

24 June 1999

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am writing to urge the FDA to take a stronger stand on the issue of antibiotics in animal feed. Most doctors agree that the decreasing effectiveness of antibiotics as resistant strains of bacteria emerge is one of the biggest threats to public health that we face in the coming decades. The overprescription of antibiotics to humans is clearly part of the problem, but it can be difficult to say to a sick person that she or he should not have antibiotics. It is easier to recognize that the use of antibiotics in animal feed is not essential. The World Health Organization was able to come to this conclusion when it recommended that antibiotics used in human medicine should no longer be used in animal feed. The Centers for Disease Control also support this position.

My son was hospitalized with pneumonia when he was nine months old. It was upsetting, but we knew his life was never in danger. As antibiotics become less effective – something that is already happening – we could return to an era in which routine infections can suddenly end a life. Please act to reduce the likelihood that this will happen by revoking the approval for antibiotics such as penicillin and fluoroquinolones to be used in animal feed.

Sincerely yours,



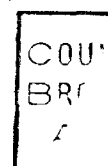
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